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Sep 21 2022

PC Teams Open Fall Season with Confidence

Girls Soccer

Record: 4-1

After a season-opening 4-1 loss to Summit Country Day School (Ohio) on Sept. 4, the Quakers have ripped off four consecutive wins over St. Hubert (5-2), Little Flower (8-3) and Germantown Friends (6-1), as well as picking up their first league win, a demonstrative 6-0 showing against Baldwin on Sept. 19. The 25-goal explosion during the win streak has been a major lift for new head coach Ashley Maher, who officially takes the reins as program leader after serving as the interim coach in 2021 and as an assistant since 2013. Penn Charter has won four league titles and two PAISAA crowns in that time, so the team is hoping for much of that same success under Maher moving forward.

"Starting this season as head coach has been very exciting, though not that different from my last nine seasons," Maher said. "We've always coached as a team and will continue to do so."

Because of some early injuries, Maher has had to move girls around in a plug-and-play approach. Some early headliners have been freshman Cassidy McCusker, who has scored three goals after moving up front from the back line; junior Haley Lewinski, returning from ACL surgery in her knee, also has netted three scores; sophomore Tristan Raymond, a spark plug on the outside, has tallied five goals; and junior Olivia Linus, a threat to both score a goal or assist on one, scored twice against Baldwin in the league opener.

Maher also pointed out the contributions of senior Bella Toomey, who has had to jump into net the last few games due to an injury to starting sophomore goalkeeper Rosey McNamee. The Quakers are weathering the early storm and still finding success despite adversity, which will come in handy when the league schedule begins this week.

"Our league is very, very competitive," Maher said. "There are no easy games, so we've been preparing and training the players hard over the last month. We have exciting young players, and it will be fun to watch them continue to mix it up with our veteran players."

Maher and company will continue Inter-Ac play on Friday, Sept. 23 vs. SCH Academy at 4 p.m.